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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

Hexham Urban District Council

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1945,

BY

LIBRARY

Dr. C. McCULLOCH.

HEXHAM :

R. Robson & Sons, Printers, Commercial Place.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

HEXHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
HEXHAM.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Hexham :—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

The birth rate is 13.2 per 1000 which is too low. This is rather disquieting and I have no doubt is due in a great degree to the housing shortage forcing so many young couples to live in with their parents.

The death rate is 11.8 per thousand and compares very favourably for the average for the whole county (11.4 per thousand).

The Infant Mortality Rate is 15.4 per thousand which is very pleasing. The average for the whole county being 46.0 per thousand.

Infectious diseases show a slight increase over last year, *viz.* :—58 cases against 47. This increase is accounted for by 34 cases of scarlet fever as against 18. Malarie was responsible for 2 cases, both being contracted abroad.

There were 10 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, a decrease of one from 1944. It is to be hoped that we have now passed the peak rise due to war causes.

Only one case of Diphtheria was notified during the year and immunisation was kept to a high level, 92.7% for pre-school children and 90.5% for school children.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
C. McCULLOCH,
Medical Officer of Health.

Sec. A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	5,926
Estimated Population, 1944	10,000

Social Conditions, including Industries Carried on in the Area.

No large industries ; nothing affecting Public Health.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate...	118	61	57
Illegitimate	14	8	6

Still Births.

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate ...	1	1	—
Illegitimate	1	1	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Population ...	13.2
Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births ...	13.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000. (Live & Still) Births.
No. 29. Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30. Other maternal causes ...	Nil.	Nil.
Total	Nil.	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	15.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births...	15.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil.
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Population ...	11.8

DEATHS.—Age Groups, also Adult, Infant and Uncertified Deaths.

AGE GROUPS :—

0—1	2
1—2	—
2—5	—
5—15	2
15—25	10
25—45	5
45—65	30
65—75	35
Over 75	34
TOTALS ALL AGES	118

UNCERTIFIED :	Male	5
	Female	1
INFANT :	Male	2
	Female	—
ADULT :	Male	56
	Female	60
		118

The chief causes of Death are set out in the following Tables :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	M.	F.
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Tub. of resp. system	2	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Measles	—	—
Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph	—	—
Ac. inf. enceph	—	1
Cancer of buc. and oesoph (M) uterus (F) ...	2	—
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	—	2
Cancer of breast	—	1
Cancer of all other sites	4	7
Diabetes	—	3
Intra-cran. vasc. lesions	6	12
Heart Disease	17	20
Other dis. of circ. system	2	1
Bronchitis	1	—
Pneumonia	—	2
Other resp. dis.	1	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—
Apendicitis	1	—
Other digestive dis.	—	1
Nephritis	2	5
Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—
Premature Birth	2	—
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	—	—
Suicide	1	—
Road Traffic Accident	—	—
Other violent causes	—	—
All other causes	7	6
	50	68
TOTAL	118	

Infant Mortality.—There were 2 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 5 in 1944. The Infant Mortality Rate is 15.4 per thousand births compared with 37.5 for 1944.

Birth-Rate, Death-Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1945.

	Rate per 1,000 total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para-Typhoid fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza		Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under one year
England and Wales ...	16·1	0·46	11·4	0·00	0·00	0·02	0·00	0·02	0·02	0·08		5·0	46
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	19·1	0·58	13·5	0·00	—	0·02	0·00	0·02	0·02	0·07		7·8	54
148 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	19·2	0·53	12·3	0·00	—	0·02	0·00	0·01	0·02	0·07		4·5	43
London Adm. County	15·7	0·40	13·8	0·00	—	0·01	0·00	0·02	0·01	0·07		7·6	53
Hexham R.D. ...	13·2	0· 2	11·8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	15·4

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1945.

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 & upward
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	34	—	1	7	20	2	2	2	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	7	1	—	—	—	2	1	2	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles	8	2	3	2	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Malaria	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	58	3	4	9	21	8	7	5	1

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year under review.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1945 :—

Age periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hexham Urban District			
	Pulmonary		Non. Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non. Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
25—35	3	3	—	1	1	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	5	1	1	2	3	—	—

	Cases Notified	Deaths
Gilesgate Ward	2	3
Leazes Ward	2	1
Priestpopple Ward ...	5	1
Hencotes Ward ...	1	—
	10	5

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Does not differ in essentials from the report of the previous year.

Diphtheria Immunisation, 1945.

	Total number of Children Immunised during 1945	Pre-School Children	School Children
Diphtheria Immunisation	46	40	6
Percentage Immunised at 31st December, 1945	—	92·7%	90·5%

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Bakehouse Inspections	12
Common Lodging Houses	6
Choked Drains	25
Disinfection at Schools	Nil
Disinfestation of Rats	210
Farms, Dairies, Milk Shops	145
Factories and Workplaces	24
Filthy Houses—Visits and Re-Visits	4
Housing Inspections	45
Housing Re-Visits	38
House-to-House Inspections	Nil
House-to-House Re-Visits	Nil
Infectious Disease Visits	43
Infectious Disease Re-Visits	43
Knackers' Yard	27
Markets and Marts	14
New Drainage Visits	6
New Drainage Re-Visits	4
Public Health Visits and Re-Visits	153
Reconstructed Drainage Visits	9
Reconstructed Drainage Re-Visits	2
Slaughter House	26
Shops, Foodstores, etc.	117
Stables	6
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	5
Various Nuisance Visits	6
Verminous Houses and Re-Visits	1
Water Supply (not Housing)	16
Total	977

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED, 1945.

	Hexham Urban District. Inspectors—W. M. ALDER. W. G. LANDALE: H.M. MITCHELL.	After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies abolished	...	1	...	1
	,, repaired	...	...	...	...
	Privy ashpits abolished ...	...	...	...	...
	,, ,, roofed or repaired	...	...	...	...
	Pail-closets abolished ...	...	...	...	...
	Water closets provided ...	6	...	...	6
	,, ,, repaired ...	1	9	...	10
	Sanitary bins provided ...	9	2	...	11
	,, ,, renewed ...	5	...	...	5
Drainage	New drains constructed ...	6	...	...	6
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	9	...	...	9
	Additional gullies provided ...	7	...	...	7
	Old gullies replaced... ...	7	...	...	7
	Scullery sinks provided ...	4	...	...	4
	,, waste pipes repaired ...	5	...	...	5
	,, ,, trapped ...	5	...	...	5
	Yards repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...
Water supply	Sources closed or discontinued, — No. of houses affected, —				
	New service provided ... Nil ,, ,, Nil				

D.—HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1945.

	With State Assistance.	Unaided	TOTAL.
(*a*) By Local Authority	—	—	—
(*b*) By other Bodies or Persons ...	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTION, 1945.

UNSOUND FOOD.	Surrendered st.	Surrendered lbs.	Seized	Legal Proceedings
Beef (home-killed)	6374	11	—	—
,, (Imported)	—	—	—	—
Mutton (home-killed)	260	9	—	—
,, (Imported)	—	—	—	—
Pork	39	7	—	—
Bacon	—	27	—	—
Fruit (dried)	243	15	—	—
Other Foods	192	13	—	—
Canned Goods (tins 480)	32	6	—	—
Green Groceries	292	0	—	—
TOTAL ...	7438	4		

URBAN DISTRICT OF HEXHAM, 1945.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Laundries)	19	2	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	5	—	—
TOTAL	24	2	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2)	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) — insufficient ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) — unsuitable, defective	2	2	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) — not separate for sexes	..	...	...	...
Other offences ... ... (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).	1	1	...	...
Total	5	5	...	...

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Section 6 (1) and (4).

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district ...	26
Approximate number of cows kept	480

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Supplementary Licences Granted (Pasteurised Milk) ...	3

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Renewals of Licence to Slaughter	9
New Licences Granted	1

DISINFECTION.

Gangrene	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Nil
Cases of Scarlet Fever	28
,, Tuberculosis	5
,, Diphtheria	1
,, Erysipelas	1
,, Chicken Pox	1
School Rooms and Outbuildings, etc.	6
Library Books destroyed	Nil
Other Rooms and Outbuildings, etc.	Nil
Small Articles disinfected	Nil
Mattresses and Eiderdowns	Nil
Pillows	Nil
Blankets	Nil
Bedding destroyed (lots)	1
Other Bedding, Beds, etc., when required	Nil
Vehicles	Nil